

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are in the application of which claims 1 and 11 are in independent form. Claim 11 is amended and claims 20-28 are canceled.

Interview. Attorney Alan Aldous does not recall whether Examiner Vo initiated the telephone interview on 10 March 2004 or whether he (Alan Aldous) did, but he believes that Examiner Vo called him. At any rate, once the telephone call began, attorney Alan Aldous discussed with the examiner why the claims were patentable over the IBM article, but was not successful with respect to claims 11-28.

Rejections. Claims 11-12, 17-23 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by "Command Response Bus System with Inherent Fault-Isolation Features," by IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, August 1986 ("IBM"). For the following reasons, the rejections should be withdrawn. Claims 13-16 and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over IBM.

Independent claim 11 is amended and is believed to distinguish over the IBM article. Claims 11 is amend to recite:

a group of integrated circuits ~~connected in~~ that operate as a ring when the integrated circuits are formed as a ring and which operate as a pseudo ring fashion when there is a truncated region between at least two of the integrated circuits, wherein the pseudo ring is created by data flow of bi-directional signaling between the integrated circuits.

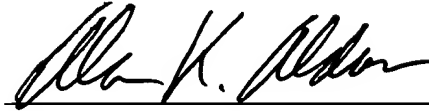
There is nothing in IBM that teaches a ring that changes between a ring and a pseudo ring because of a truncated region between integrated circuits. Accordingly, claim 11 is patentable over the IBM article. Further, claims 12-19 are patentable for at least that reason.

Claims 20-28 are cancelled without prejudice to reintroducing them in a later application.

Note there may be reasons for patentability in addition to those listed above.

Respectfully submitted,

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